

Office of National Drug Control Policy

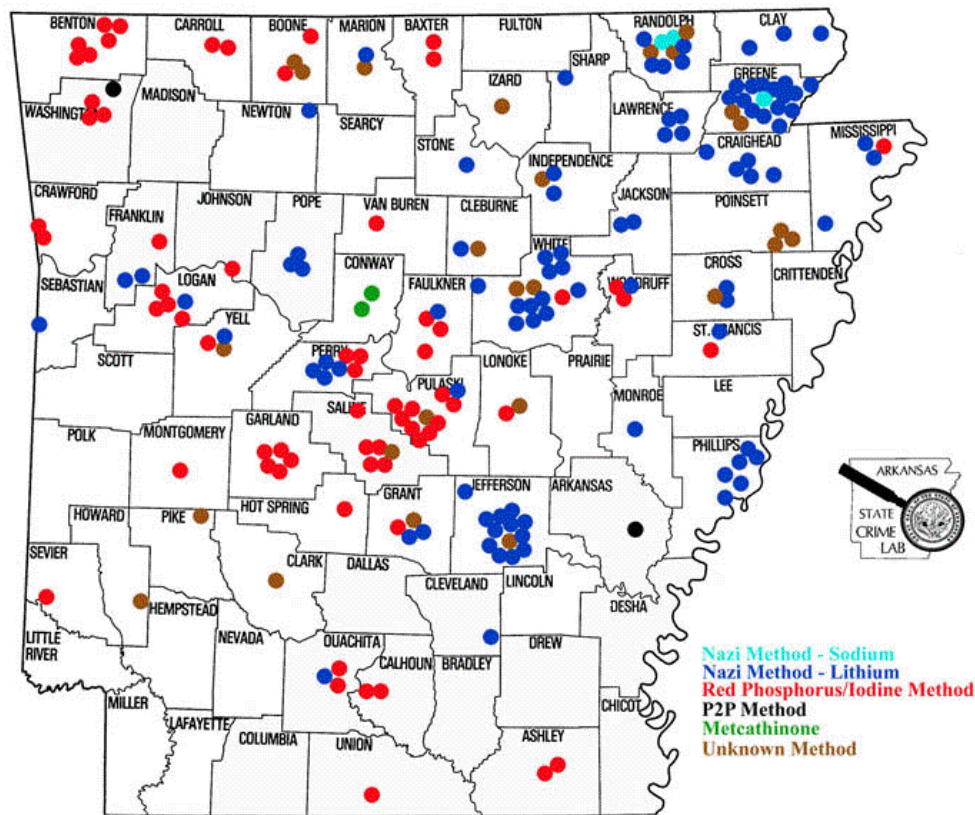
Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Arkansas

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000

1998 Methamphetamine Clandestine Labs



205 Total Cases (Thru 7/24/98)

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Arkansas

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,350,725 (1990 census), 2,551,373 (1999 estimate)
- Gender: 48.2% Male, 51.8% Female
- Age: 26.5% under 18 years old, 14.8% 65 years or older
- Racial/Ethnicity: 82.7% White; 1.6% Black; .5% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut; .5% Asian or Pacific Islander; .8% Hispanic Origin
- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level: 14.8%

Politics²

- U.S. Senators: Blanche Lincoln (D), Tim Hutchinson (R)
- U.S. Representatives: Marion Berry (D), Jay Dickey Jr. (R), Asa Hutchinson (R) Vic Snyder (D)
- Governor: Mike Huckabee (R)
- Lieutenant Governor: Winthrop P. Rockefeller (R)
- Attorney General: Mark Pryor

Programs/Initiatives³

- In FY 1999 ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded \$99,818 under the Drug Free Communities Support Program to the Jones Center for Families in Springdale, Arkansas. Funds will be used to benefit the northwest region of Arkansas and its Coalition Against Alcohol and Drugs, and its programs to provide alternative high school students with life skills classes at the regional community center in art and other skills that students can expand into vocational/professional skills. The life skills classes will emphasize substance abuse-related issues.
Initiative intends to strengthen bonds with pro-social adult role models; provide alternative school teens with recognition of skillful performance; increase community participation to reduce youth substance abuse; and assess the effectiveness of community substance abuse reduction initiatives.
- In FY1998 ONDCP in conjunction with the OJJDP awarded \$75,216 to The North Arkansas Drug Awareness and Prevention Council under the Drug Free Communities Support Program. The council began in 1989 as an all-volunteer, grassroots organization to coordinate or initiate substance abuse awareness activities, promote rehabilitation of substance abusers, support law enforcement in drug eradication efforts, and promote substance abuse prevention activities. The council has now developed a long-term strategic plan that has three primary objectives: 1) to reduce substance abuse among youth by addressing factors that put youth at risk; 2) to disseminate information about effective substance abuse reduction strategies that can be replicated in communities throughout the county; and 3) assess overall effectiveness of community substance abuse reduction activities.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime⁴

- For the time period of January through November of 1999 there were a total of 92,827 Crime Index Offenses this was down 5.5% from 98,278 offenses in the same time period during 1998.

Offenses Reported in Arkansas January - November 1998 and 1999

Offense	Jan.-Nov. 1998	Jan.-Nov. 1999	% Change
Violent Crimes			
Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter	179	121	-32.4%
Forcible Rape	801	666	-16.9%
Robbery	2,180	1,781	-18.3%
Aggravated Assault	8,017	7,138	-11.0%
Violent Crime Index	11,177	9,706	-13.2%
Property Crimes			
Burglary	21,039	19,525	-7.2%
Theft	59,036	57,158	-3.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,497	5,979	-8.0%
Arson	529	459	-13.2%
Property Crime Index	87,101	83,121	-4.6%
Total Crime Index	98,278	92,827	-5.5%

- There were a total of 13,384 drug arrests between January and November of 1999. A majority of arrests were for possession of marijuana (7,096).

Drug Arrests in Arkansas, January- November 1999

Drug Offenses	Total	Juvenile	Adult	M	F	White	Black	Other
Sale/Manufacturing								
Cocaine & Derivatives	740	26	714	618	122	294	443	3
Marijuana	1,003	64	939	831	172	747	252	4
Synthetic Narcotics	1,243	17	1,226	907	336	1,181	60	2
Non-Narcotic Drugs	86	2	84	63	23	72	13	1
Subtotal	3,072	109	2,963	2,419	653	2,294	768	10
Possession								
Cocaine & Derivatives	1,388	88	1,300	1,152	236	613	770	5
Marijuana	7,096	812	6,284	6,004	1,092	4,950	2,111	35
Synthetic Narcotics	1,343	32	1,311	1,024	319	1,184	157	2
Non-Narcotic Drugs	485	26	459	355	130	408	77	0
Subtotal	10,312	958	9,354	8,535	1,777	7,155	3,115	42
Total All Drug Offenses	13,384	1,067	12,317	10,954	2,430	9,449	3,883	52

Enforcement

- As of October 1998 Arkansas employed 7,891 law enforcement personnel in 197 agencies around the State.⁵

Law Enforcement Personnel, Arkansas 1998

	Male	Female
Officers	4,844	444
Civilians	1,023	1,580
Total Employees	7,891	

Drugs

- Arkansas law enforcement officials seized record high 554 methamphetamine laboratories in 1999. During 1994, authorities found 6 working labs this rose to 242 labs in 1997.
- Methamphetamine availability has increased significantly throughout the Southeast over the last 2 years. Law enforcement agencies in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee all reported increases in methamphetamine seizures and case initiations. The Arkansas State Police, for example, reported that methamphetamine-related cases rose from 543 in 1988 to over 2,000 in 1995. In contrast to the general regional trend toward reliance on outside suppliers, clandestine methamphetamine production continues in Arkansas, south Alabama, and sections of Tennessee.⁶

Juveniles⁷

- A survey of Arkansas's high school students in 1999 revealed that 44.9% had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime and 24.4% were current marijuana users.

Percent of Arkansas High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	41.9%	47.9%	44.9%
Current Marijuana Use (2)	19.6	29.2	24.4
Lifetime Cocaine Use	8.7	11.7	10.2
Current Cocaine Use	3.1	6.1	4.6
Lifetime Inhalant Use	16.6	16.7	16.7
Current Inhalant Use	4.5	5.2	4.8
Lifetime Heroin Use	2.8	5.8	4.3
Lifetime Meth Use	12.9	15.0	13.9
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.1	6.9	5.0
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use (3)	2.3	5.3	3.8

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

3. Used a needle to inject drugs

Trafficking and Seizures⁸

- There were 32,793 marijuana plants eradicated in Arkansas during 1998.

Marijuana Eradication, Arkansas 1996-1998

	1996	1997	1998
Outdoor Operations			
Plots Eradicated	637	1,296	476
Cultivated Plants Eradicated	39,147	47,411	32,151
Ditchweed Eradicated	0	0	0
Indoor Operations			
Grows Seized	24	18	18
Plants Eradicated	879	841	642
Total Plants Eradicated	40,026	48,252	32,793
Number of Arrests	356	178	97
Number of Weapons Seized	157	87	88
Value of Assets Seized	\$430,629	\$29,976	\$50,455

Courts⁹

- Of the 402 Federal defendants in Arkansas during FY 1998, 44% were charged with a drug-related offense. The most common drugs involved were methamphetamine (35.5%), followed by crack cocaine (27.6%), marijuana (24.8%), powder cocaine (9.6%), and heroin (0.5%).

Corrections

- As of June 1999 there were 10,926 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities in Arkansas. This was up 7.9% from 10,334 in June of 1998. The Arkansas Department of Corrections' drug testing policy links positive drug tests to denial or revocation of release. There were 2,530 Inmates in drug treatment programs on January 1, 1997. The department of corrections uses 80 drug dogs for drug interdiction.¹⁰

Treatment

- Marijuana was the most common illegal drug that clients sought treatment for in Arkansas during 1998, accounting for 17.42% of all admissions.

Primary Drug Problem at Admission, Statewide SFY 1998¹¹

Drug Type	Male	Female	Total	% of All Admissions
Alcohol	5,626	1,291	6,917	48.37%
Cannabis	2,018	473	2,491	17.42
Crack/Cocaine	1,650	779	2,429	16.98
Amphetamines	1,175	569	1,744	12.19
Heroin & Other Opiates	216	175	391	2.73
Hallucinogens & PCP	27	5	32	.22
Inhalants	25	6	31	.22
TOTAL	10,906	3,395	14,301	100.00

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Arkansas Web site: <http://www.state.ar.us/>

³ ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

⁴ Arkansas Crime Information Center Web site: <http://www.acic.org/>

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1998 Uniform Crime Reports*, October 1999.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *Methamphetamine Situation in the U.S.*, March 1996.

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 1999*, June 2000.

⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program*, 1997.

⁹ U.S. Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/>

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders*, October 1998

¹¹ Arkansas Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, *Alcohol and Drug Data Information Systems Report*, 1998

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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